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BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STB Docket No. 1043 (Sub-No. 1)

**MONTREAL, MAINE & ATLANTIC RAILWAY, LTD.
DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE AND ABANDONMENT
IN AROOSTOOK AND PENOBSCOT COUNTIES, MAINE**

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC May 10, 2010, PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE AND ABANDONMENT

Virginia R. Joles, President
LEADers Encouraging Aroostook Development
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Dated: April 10, 2010

**MONTREAL, MAINE & ATLANTIC RAILWAY, LTD.
DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE AND ABANDONMENT
IN AROOSTOOK AND PENOBSHOT COUNTIES, ME**

STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 1)

On February 25, 2010, Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. (MM&A) filed with the Board an application for permission to abandon 233 miles of track in northern Aroostook and Penobscot Counties, Maine. According to a late release posted April 9, 2010, to the Surface Transportation Board website, public comments concerning the proposed abandonment are to be filed no later than April 19, 2010.

(1) **LEADers Encouraging Aroostook Development (LEAD)**, opposes this discontinuance and abandonment. (2) **Virginia Joles, President of LEAD**, wishes to address the Board for (3) approximately **five minutes** at the Monday, May 10, 2010, at the public hearing, beginning at 9:00 a.m., District Court House, 27 Riverside Drive, Presque Isle, Maine. LEAD, a non-profit corporation comprised of approximately one hundred business and community members, was established in 1986 for the purpose of fostering and encouraging the balanced development of Aroostook County. This group of volunteers focuses on the economy, jobs, image, partnerships, promoting new and existing businesses, natural resources, and legislation.

The loss of this specific portion of the freight rail system will be devastating to the rural communities of Northern Maine. Twenty-two businesses, with an estimated 766 jobs, and 960 secondary jobs, are active rail shippers along the line, and discontinued or abandoned rail service will drastically affect others, including area farmers, retail businesses, local government, financial institutions, as well as the entire community.

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Filing To:

E-FILING Surface Transportation Board
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395 E Street, S. W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001